

Message Text

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FOR SCHNEIDER FROM NEA/INS KUX

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SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL IN
FRIDAY MAY 21 EDITION ENTITLED "CARTER'S NUCLEAR BLAST":

2. QUOTE. FORMER GOV. JIMMY CARTER'S CALL A FEW DAYS AGO
FOR A SUMMIT-LEVEL APPROACH TO THE LEADERS OF WEST GERMANY
AND FRANCE TO HALT THE EXPORT OF PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING
PLANTS, WHICH PRODUCE ATOMIC EXPLOSIVES, RAISED A CAMPAIGN
ISSUE OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE.

3. THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S FAILURE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH
THIS PROBLEM EARLY ENOUGH, VIGOROUSLY ENOUGH OR HIGH ENOUGH
IN THE COUNCILS OF THE WESTERN WORLD CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS
THREAT TO THE NATION'S SECURITY AND THE FUTURE OF MANKIND.
THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS TAKING
ADVANTAGE OF THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT Giscard D'Estaing OF
FRANCE TO PRESS SERIOUSLY ENOUGH FOR A CHANGE IN POLICY BY
PARIS. NOR IS WASHINGTON FOLLOWING CANADA'S EXAMPLE IN
PERMANENTLY SUSPENDING NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH INDIA, WHICH
DIVERTED PLUTONIUM FROM A CANADIAN REACTOR TO MAKE AN
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EXPLOSIVE DEVICE; ON THE CONTRARY, THE BIG GUNS OF THE FORD

ADMINISTRATION ARE PRESSING FOR RELEASE OF NEW SHIPMENTS OF

ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL TO INDIA, DESPITE STRONG OPPOSITION
FROM CONGRESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS.

4. PLUTONIUM HAS NO COMMERCIAL USE AT PRESENT. FOR THREE DECADES THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER NUCLEAR SUPPLIER COUNTRIES HAVE REFUSED TO EXPORT THE TECHNOLOGY FOR PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING, URANIUM ENRICHMENT AND OTHER PROCESSES INVOLVED IN MAKING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WEST GERMANY BROKE WITH THIS POLICY LAST JUNE AS PART OF A DOLS. 4 BILLION SALE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS TO BRAZIL AND IS OPENING SIMILAR DISCUSSIONS WITH IRAN. FRANCE PLANS THE SALE OF A PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING PLANT TO PAKISTAN.

5. IF WEST GERMANY AND FRANCE CONTINUE SELLING PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING PLANTS, MR. CARTER POINTED OUT, DEVELOPING NATIONS BY THE 1990'S MAY BE ABLE TO PRODUCE ENOUGH PLUTONIUM TO BUILD 3,000 HIROSHIMA-SIZE BOMBS A YEAR. THE PROSPECT THAT THE NORMAL EVENTS OF HISTORY--SUCH AS REGIONAL WARS, REVOLUTIONS, OR TERRORIST ATTACKS--MAY TAKE ON A NUCLEAR DIMENSION IS FRIGHTFUL.

6. MR. CARTER HAS ACCURATELY DIAGNOSED THE IMMEDIATE NEED FOR A MORATORIUM ON THE EXPORT OF PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING PLANTS TO PROVIDE TIME FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLUTIONS. HE ARGUES THAT "ALL SUPPLIER COUNTRIES ARE ENTITLED TO A FAIR SHARE OF THE REACTOR MARKET," MEETING THE WEST GERMAN ARGUMENT THAT AMERICAN DOMINANCE OF THIS MARKET HAS FORCED THEM TO OFFER PILOT PLUTONIUM PLANTS--WHICH AMERICAN COMPANIES ARE FORBIDDEN TO EXPORT--AS "SWEETENERS." PLUTONIUM REPROCESSING PLANTS, WHICH SELL FOR A FEW MILLION DOLLARS, HAVE NO USE NOW OTHER THAN TO MAKE ATOMIC BOMBS.

7. IF THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY IS TO BE HALTED, NATIONS MUST BE ASSURED AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF SLIGHTLY ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL FOR PEACEFUL POWER REACTORS. SUCH NEEDS COULD BE MET THROUGH THE PROPOSAL TO ENLARGE PRODUCTION RAPIDLY UNDER MULTINATIONAL OWNERSHIP. TO MEET THE DEMAND OF THE LESS-DEVELOPED NATIONS FOR PROGRESS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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ARMS CONTROL BY THE NUCLEAR POWERS, MR. CARTER URGES A FIVE-YEAR BAN ON ALL TESTING OF NUCLEAR DEVICES AND A MORE VIGOROUS SOVIET-AMERICAN EFFORT TO LIMIT STRATEGIC ARMS.

8- THE VOTERS WILL AWAIT MORE FROM MR. CARTER ON THE ISSUE OF ARMS CONTROL. BUT THIS INITIAL STATEMENT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT HE IS DEALING SERIOUSLY WITH A QUESTION OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THE NATION'S FUTURE. ROBINSON

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